Demand of Export Promotion Councils

254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Export Promotion Council urged Government to remove the ceiling on the value of exports under the Duty Drawback Scheme to give boost to textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other demands/requests made by the Export Promotion Councils; and

(d) whether the Councils have requested for reviewing of the system of Inter-Ministerial Group to look into the various problems faced by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Suggestions were received from various Export Promotion Councils *inter-alia* for removal of value caps under duty drawback scheme as the value caps on admissibility of duty drawback benefits discourage exports of value added textile items from the country. The other suggestions include upward revision in duty drawback rates of garments made of cotton, man-made and other materials; cotton made-ups, glass artware, restoration of duty drawback rates for aluminium artware and Electroplated Nickle Silverware (EPNS), etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

MBT Arjun

†255. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenously developed main battle tank 'Arjun' has not been found to be upto the mark in the test;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is possible to develop Arjun tanks upto the mark;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what is the alternative?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) MBT Arjun has gone through all the tests and it is meeting the General Staff Qualitative Requirements of the Army. However during preparatory tests before comparative trials, certain systems have not met the acceptance criteria. These units are being rectified.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. More Ruggedisation is being introduced to withstand abnormal peak temperatures.

(e) Does not arise.

Security lapses in J&K

256. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be placed to state:

(a) whether there were security lapses which encouraged more extremist activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether army has been given more firepower in Jammu and Kashmir after last killing incidents during the last three months;

(d) if so, whether any directive has been issued to security forces to take measures to check infiltration and deal firmly with extremists that are operating at present in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Adequate fire power is available with the Army to counter terrorist activities.

(d) and (e) The Army is tasked with the responsibility to counter all terrorist activities. The overall counter infiltration measures and counter proxy war strategy deployed by the Army include a multi-tiered arrangement on the Line of Control (LoC) along with fencing and relentless operations in the hinterland so as to ensure that infiltration is minimized and violence levels in Jammu and Kashmir kept under check.